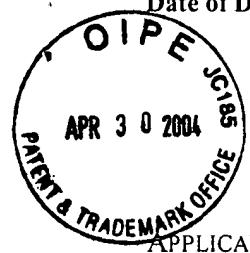


Express Mail No.: EV328708177US
Date of Deposit: April 30, 2004

Attorney Docket No.: 15966-551 CON-S2
(Cura-51 CON-S2)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Richard A. Shimkets
SERIAL NO.: 09/998,966 EXAMINER: Olga N. Chernyshev
FILING DATE: October 31, 2001 ART UNIT: 1646
FOR: NOVEL NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCES ENCODING HUMAN FIBROBLAST GROWTH FACTOR-LIKE POLYPEPTIDES

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), applicants hereby petition for a three-month extension of time to respond to the October 30, 2003 Office Action in the above-identified application. With the extension, the response is due on April 30, 2004. The response mailed on March 1, 2004 included payment for a one-month extension of time (\$55.00). The difference between the fee for a three-month extension (\$475.00) and the two-month extension (\$55.00) is \$420.00. A check in the amount of \$420.00 in payment of the fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(3), is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 15966-520 (CURA-51CON-S2). A duplicate copy of this Transmittal is enclosed.

Dated: April 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Ivor R. Elfrifi, Reg. No. 39,529
Cynthia A. Kozakiewicz, Reg. No. 42,764
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